

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06397 030457Z

10
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

ERDA-05 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 /079 W

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R 030420Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8865
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
SECDEF
CNO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAH
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AS, ANZUS, MARR, MNUC, PINT
SUBJECT: TRUXTON VISIT ATMOSPHERICS

1. SUMMARY: NSW PREMIER NEVILLE WRAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NSW PORTS WOULD NOT READILY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NPWS AND THE DECISION BY 10 UNIONS IN MELBOURNE INCLUDING THE WATER-SIDE WORKERS FEDERATION AND THE SEAMEN'S UNION TO STRIKE WHEN THE TRUXTON VISITS MELBOURNE ON SEPTEMBER 7 TRIGGERED STRONG REACTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER FRASER, DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN AND VICTORIA PREMIER HAMER. THE UNIONS' DECISION TO STRIKE WAS ALSO STRONGLY CRITICIZED IN EDITORIALS IN SEVERAL LEADING NEWSPAPERS. AT THIS TIME IT APPEARS THAT THE TRUXTON VISIT TO MELBOURNE WILL PROVOKE SOMEWHAT LESS CONTROVERSY THAN DID ITS VISIT TO WELLINGTON, BUT OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT MIGHT WELL INCREASE OVER THE

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PAGE 02 CANBER 06397 030457Z

WEEKEND. END SUMMARY

2. IN A SEPTEMBER 2 STATEMENT THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED THE POLITICAL STRIKES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED. HE CLAIMED THAT THE STRIKE AGAINST TRUXTUN WAS QTE NOT SO MUCH A QUESTION OF SAFETY AS A QUESTION OF TRYING TO DESTROY THE ANZUS ALLIANCE. END QTE THE PRIME MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY QTE TRUXTUN IS GOING TO COME IN AND BE HERE FOR THE ALLOTTED TIME...VISITS OF NUCLEAR SHIPS ARE QUITE ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO BE AN APPROPRIATE ANZUS PARTNER. THE US NAVY IS POWERED BY NUCLEAR SHIPS. THE ANZUS TREATY REQUIRES US TO COOPERATE AND WE WANT TO DO THAT ANYWAY. END QTE HE ADDED THAT IT WAS ONLY REASONABLE THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD MAKE HER PORT FACILITIES AVAILABLE AFTER PROPER SAFEGUARDS HAD BEEN INSURED, AND CONCLUDED THAT AUSTRALIANS WERE THOROUGHLY FED UP WITH POLITICAL STRIKES.

3. DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN APPEALED TO TRADE UNIONISTS NOT TO DESERT RATIONALITY AND REASON AND SAID QTE I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A GREATER DANGER OF GENETIC DAMAGE FROM WEARING WOOLEN UNDERPANTS THAN FROM A PORT CALL BY A NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP. END QTE

4. VICTORIA PREMIER HAMER DESCRIBED THE ORGANIZERS OF THE TRUXTUN STRIKE AS QTE A COMMUNIST CLIQUE DICTATING TO THE COMMUNITY END QTE ADDING QTE I HOPE THE RANK AND FILE UNIONIST WILL SEE THE ACTION FOR WHAT IT IS - AN ANTI-AMERICAN ACTION DICTATED BY A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO OUR DEFENSE PACT WITH THE UNITED STATES. END QTE

5. ACTU PRESIDENT BOB HAWKE ALSO GOT INTO THE ACT REJECTING ALLEGATIONS THAT THE TRUXTUN STRIKES WERE A COMMUNIST PLOT. HE SAID A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TOOK THE SAME VIEW AS THE MARITIME UNIONS ON THE ISSUE.

6. FINALLY, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWMAN SAID THAT THERE WAS NO RISK TO PUBLIC SAFETY AS A RESULT OF THE TRUXTUN'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CANBER 06397 030457Z

VISIT. HE SAID US NPWS HAD VISITED 80 PORTS IN 30 COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN THE PAST 20 YEARS AND THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A REPORT OF NUCLEAR LEAKAGE.

7. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, NSW PREMIER NEVILLE WRAN AGREED TO HAVE NSW OFFICIALS DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF NPW VISITS WITH GOA OFFICIALS. WRAN HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE NPWS

VISIT NSW PORTS, BUT IN AGREEING TO TALKS WITH GOA
OFFICIALS HE HAS GIVEN HIMSELF THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-
VERSING HIS POSITION.

8. COMMENT: AS OF TODAY IT APPEARS THAT THE STRIKE
IN MELBOURNE WILL CLOSE THE PORT FOR ONLY A DAY. HOW-
EVER, ADDITIONAL ORGANIZED PROTESTS AND A POSSIBLE CON-
TINUATION OF THE STRIKE COULD MATERIALIZE OVER THE WEEK-
END. END COMMENT. HARGROVE

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